

Directions: With your parents or an adult, search your home for ways to reduce your family's energy use and keep out winter's chill! By making a few easy changes, you can conserve energy, save money, and help protect the environment.

Earn your Certified Energy Saver certificate! Ask an adult to contact the Division of Energy and Climate at 302-735-3480 or outreachdec@state.de.us. An official certificate will be mailed to your home!

Living Room

- Put throws or blankets in common areas to snuggle up, instead of turning up the heat.
- Ask an adult to help you set the thermostat temperature lower at night and during the day when no one is home.
- Check windows and doors for air leaks. Place a rolled-up towel at the bottom of the door to temporarily block drafts until an adult can add weather-stripping.
- With an adult, remove or cover window unit air conditioners to block drafts.

You could be featured as a Certified Energy Saver!

Ask a parent or guardian to tweet pictures of completed scavenger hunt items to @EnergyClimateDE and you could be recognized on the Division website*!

*First name and town only.



Kitchen

- Ask an adult to help you set your refrigerator to 38°- 40°F, and your freezer to 10°F.
- Fill the dishwasher before running it—one full load uses less water and energy than several small ones.
- ☐ Getting ready for a holiday party or winter feast? Help cook 3 or 4 items in the oven at once to conserve heat, and enjoy the warmth and good smells!
- Set up a clothes line or drying rack for laundry. When your family uses the dryer, dry multiple loads in a row so it doesn't have to reheat each time.

Bathroom

- Set an egg-timer when you shower to keep it shorter and save water. Be careful not to slip!
- Turn off the faucet when you brush your teeth, in between rinsing.
- Help an adult install flow-restrictors on faucets and shower heads.









Bedroom

- Unplug chargers and electronics that are fully charged or aren't being used.
- **Turn off lights and TVs** when there is no one in the room.
- Put cozy flannel sheets and warm winter blankets on your bed, so you can keep the household temperature lower at night.
- Open curtains during the day to let sunlight inside, and close them at night to keep in warmth.

On the Go

- Call friends and neighbors to organize carpools to sports practices, music rehearsals, tutoring sessions, and other activities.
- □ Draw a map of your town, including stores, schools, and other places you go on a regular basis. Plan out a route that covers daily trips with the shortest path and least fuel.
- **Walk or bike** instead of driving, when weather and safety permit.
- Learn to use a pressure gauge to check tire pressure. Cars use less fuel when tires are properly inflated!
- Talk to an adult about ways they can save fuel in the car. For example, drivers and passengers can be patient and let the car heat up as it drives, instead of idling to warm it up before everyone gets in.



Bonus: Appoint a family member to be the Switch Sheriff, tasked with checking empty rooms for lights and reminding everyone in the house to keep good energy habits.



Additional Tips for Grown-ups

Making your home energy-efficient can significantly reduce your energy bill while increasing environmental responsibility and setting a great example for kids.

- Replace filters and have your HVAC system serviced regularly for maximum efficiency.
- ♦ When buying new appliances, look for the Energy Star rating or Energy Guide label.
- ♦ Make sure your hot water heater and hot water pipes are well-insulated.
- The Delaware **Weatherization Assistance Program** (<u>de.gov/wap</u>) for low-income families and the **Sustainable Energy Utility** (<u>energizedelaware.org</u>) provide support in home energy efficiency. Additionally, visit <u>de.gov/cleantransportation</u> to learn about incentives for electric cars and alternative fuels.
- Visit www.dnrec.delaware.gov/energy for more information.